



# Arizona Game and Fish Department

## Wildlife Matters

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### Summer Legislative Tours



### Summer Legislative Tours

Interested in attending??? Call 602-789-3533 or  
[balteneder@azleg.gov](mailto:balteneder@azleg.gov) - Ben

As part of an ongoing effort to educate Arizona's public policy makers, our summer tours are being extended! Several Legislators and staff have found the excuse to get out of the office and find out more about Arizona's diverse wildlife and how the decisions they make affect them!

Tours include:

- Get Out of the Heat Wildlife Viewing Tour
- Endangered Species Tour
- Law Enforcement Patrols
- Wildlife Habitat Tour
- Border Impact Tour
- "I Want to Learn How to ?" Tour
- Create Your Own Tour



*An upcoming tour includes viewing of the  
endangered California Condor*

## Dove Season Opens



## Dove Hunt Opens on Labor Day Weekend

**Dove hunters breath a sigh of relief  
when major storm doesn't materialize**

### *New season on Eurasian collared doves*

PHOENIX – Hurricane Dean didn't blast into Arizona as originally anticipated and die-hard dove hunters breathed a sigh of relief; such storms can prompt a lot of white-winged doves to begin their annual migration south right before the opener.

The dove season (Sept. 1-15) opens on Labor Day weekend this year.

Biologists with the Arizona Game and Fish Department said the abundant summer rains throughout much of Arizona and the associated green-up in the deserts will likely result in the morning dove population being more dispersed this year.

"On the plus side, it means you will have the opportunity to find doves away from the major concentrations of hunters as well. It would be a good idea for dove hunters to take one last opportunity to pre-scout before the season opens Sept. 1," said Mike Rabe, the department's migratory bird biologist.

**A big change this year** is the newly-created year-round season (with no limits) on the Eurasian collared doves. The Eurasian collared doves are larger than both the white-winged and mourning doves. The year-round season commences with the opening of dove season on Sept. 1, 2007 and continues 365 days through Aug. 31 of 2008.

"The Eurasian collared doves are basically bonus birds for the bag and table. This species of dove provides great shooting and very good eating," said Randy Babb, a department biologist in the Mesa Regional Office.

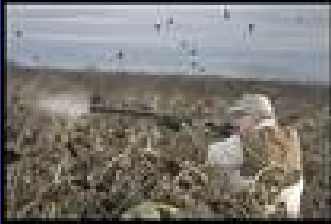
Eurasian collard dove numbers seem to be increasing steadily on the east side, Babb said, and he expects hunters to be see more of them in their bag each season if the trend continues.

As usual, the ever-evolving **challenge facing dove hunters** again this year is finding agricultural areas to

hunt around the metropolitan areas that haven't been turned into subdivisions or shopping malls.

Changing land uses create another compelling reason to pre-scout. "That maize field you hunted last year may be a subdivision this year, or be right next to one. Good places to hunt are as much a moving target as the doves themselves," Babb said.

Although this is not expected to be a banner dove year, Arizona will still provide **some of the best dove hunting in the nation**. One of the telltales for the quality of Arizona's hunt is the number of dove hunters who flock to this state from California, even though Southern California itself provides some of the nation's better dove hunting opportunities.

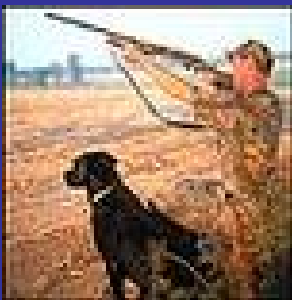


Once again this year in Arizona, it will be **half-day hunts** (mornings) for adult hunters in the southern zone (desert areas). Arizona's continued great dove hunting opportunities are a direct result of that more conservative half-day hunting regime for adult hunters.

But don't forget that **youth can hunt all day** during the early season. The full day hunt for juniors allows young hunters to go dove hunting after school, even though it looks like the participation in recent years has been pretty low.

"Do your kids a favor and get them out in the afternoons when the doves are going for an evening drink or back to roost. It's a good time to help those young hunters fine tune their wing-shooting skills," said Babb.

The annual **juniors-only dove hunt at the Robbins Butte Wildlife Area** near Buckeye is slated for Sept. 8-9. The Chandler Rod and Gun Club will be providing the sumptuous pancake and sausage breakfast each morning following the junior dove hunt.



Dove hunters should keep in mind that Arizona is cooperating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in **collecting mourning dove wings** from hunters this year. Randomly selected hunters will be asked to save one wing from each dove during the first week of the season and mail the wings – postage free – to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hunters may also be contacted in the field and asked to contribute wings.

Data from the wings will be used to estimate annual

## Mussels in Powell



productivity of the dove population, and will eventually be used in helping to establish hunting regulations.

Don't forget that hunters age 16 and older of dove and band-tailed pigeon (as well as coots, snipe, and common moorhens) **must purchase a \$4.50 Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp** for the 2007-2008 season. The stamp validates a hunting license for the federal Harvest Information Program.

By the way, don't forget there is **a late dove season** from Nov. 23, 2007 to Jan. 6, 2008. This season is becoming increasingly popular with hunters. "I like the late season best. The air temperatures are cooler and the best hunting is in the afternoons. It's really a pleasant hunt," Rabe said.

## Invasive Mussels Detected in Lake Powell

### *Boaters asked to inspect their vessels for mussels*

Page, Ariz. – New test results indicate the presence of an extremely small number of individual, larval quagga or zebra mussels in Lake Powell.

Two cooperative research and monitoring efforts, conducted on July 19 and 30 by the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, detected three individual mussel larvae at the Wawheap marina and near the Glen Canyon Dam.

Dr. David Britton, an expert on quagga and zebra mussels for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "While the test results indicate the presence of individual larval quagga or zebra mussels in Lake Powell, much uncertainty remains. We do not know at this point if an established population is present. We also do not know for certain how quagga or zebra mussels will affect Lake Powell."

Five water samples were collected from Lake Powell and analyzed by a Bureau of Reclamation laboratory in Denver (see table below). The samples were analyzed using two different methods – a microscopic technique and DNA fingerprint technology. Three of these samples did not indicate the presence of any quagga or zebra mussels. Two of the samples, collected at the Wahweap Marina and near the Glen Canyon Dam, indicated the presence of three individual larval mussels when tested with the

microscopic method and DNA fingerprint technology. The testing methods cannot distinguish whether or not these are quagga mussels or zebra mussels, which are closely related.

"Additional samples have been collected from Lake Powell and are being analyzed for quagga and zebra mussels. In the coming weeks, more samples will be collected from various locations around the lake to determine if mussels are present in other areas," said Kitty Roberts, superintendent of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.



The National Park Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been closely working with each other to closely monitor the spread of quagga mussels since they were found in Lake Mead in January 2007.

The National Park Service's existing quagga and zebra mussel prevention program will remain in place. Boats that have been in water bodies with known quagga or zebra mussel infestations in the last 30 days will continue to be required to be decontaminated before entering Lake Powell. High pressure, hot water decontamination stations are available at all marinas within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, including Wahweap, Antelope Point, Bullfrog, and Halls Crossing marinas.

As a preventative measure, the National Park Service will also begin requiring any boats that are slipped in Lake Powell to receive a decontamination wash before they exit the park if they are being moved to a non-infested lake. In addition, people with boats in the marinas at Lake Powell are strongly encouraged to conduct a thorough inspection of their boat to look for quagga or zebra mussels which may be attached.



To prevent quagga mussels or any other aquatic nuisance species from being spread to other lakes, all visitors leaving Lake Powell or any other body of water should thoroughly wash their boats and trailers after they leave the lake. Bilges, wet wells, motors, and any other part of the boat that could hold water must be completely drained. Any other gear that has come into contact with the water – such as waders or fishing equipment – should also be washed. The boat and all gear should be allowed to thoroughly dry in the sun for at least five days before being used in another water body.

## September Events

Further information about quagga and zebra mussels and how to prevent their spread is available online at [www.100thmeridian.org](http://www.100thmeridian.org), [www.protect yourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net), and [www.nps.gov/glca](http://www.nps.gov/glca).

## September Happenings

**See our new Outdoor Calendar!!!**

[http://www.azgfd.gov/nrm/calendar\\_events.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/nrm/calendar_events.shtml)

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*Department Staff have contributed to this publication in the form of articles and photographs.*

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***Wildlife Matters***

Legislative Affairs

